



VOL. XXIV.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1855.

NO. 1.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

UPLAND CRANBERRIES.

In our last number, we copied a somewhat lengthy article from the Journal of Commerce, giving the details of cranberry culture on swampy land, in which some good hints will be found.

Experiments are every year demonstrating that cranberries can be made a profitable crop on moist uplands. At the fair of the State Society in Gardiner, some very fine specimens of cranberries were exhibited by Mr. Robert Withee, of Gardiner, which he raised on moist upland. His statement relating his mode of cultivation will be published in the transactions of the Society. We last week received some samples of very large cranberries from our neighbor Mr. Benjamin King, of Winthrop, that grew on upland, without any cultivation, more than what they received from nature.

He related to us the following history of them: While mowing in his lot he discovered a small patch of cranberry vines. This was in an upland field of grass, there being no water or swampy land near them. He mowed around them. A year ago this fall he picked from the vines a quart of cranberries. The vines continue to spread among the grass, and this last season he picked four quarts. He, of course, did not mow them down either season, neither has he done any thing to them in the way of cultivation.

If they should continue to increase every year in a quadruple proportion as they have during the past year, Mr. K. will soon have a large supply.

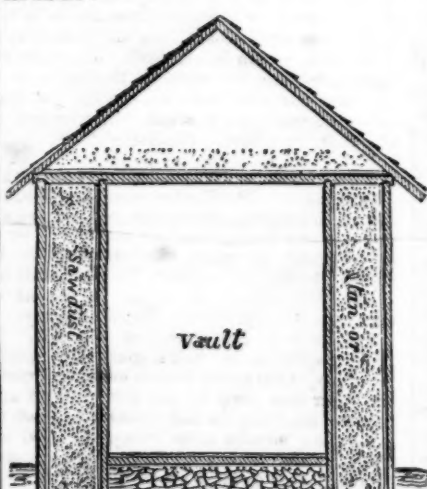
He supposes the seeds were deposited there by birds, as there are no cranberries growing very near to them.

No doubt if he were to thin out the grass from among them they would produce a larger crop, but they seem to be increasing pretty fast and the berries are certainly of good size. We hope the crop will continue to increase, for when they produce well they are more valuable than the hay he would cut there.

AMELIORATION OF CLIMATE.

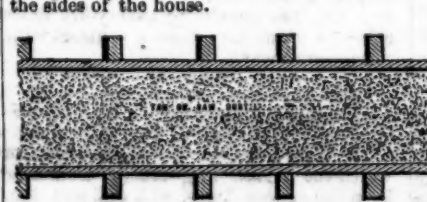
Can we change our climate? No. Can we modify it? Yes, a little. The clearing up of lands, by cutting away large tracts of forest, has modified the climate of Maine, in one respect. In the older sections of the State, snow does not come so early, nor lay so late, as at the time of the earlier settlement of the country, yet we doubt not that the thermometer indicates about the same range of temperature, excepting, perhaps, it may be higher in summer, in consequence of the sun having more access to lands formerly shaded.

Some remarks by Wilson Flagg, a correspondent of Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture, in regard to obviating the rigors of winter in small or circumscribed localities, such as farms and gardens, are worthy attention. He very truly observes that the north and northeast winds, in New England produce of most cold. Hence, in locating buildings it would be well to have an eye to this fact, and place them, if possible, and no greater inconvenience should arise, on slopes, or places having hills, or swell north-easterly and easterly of the spot. When this cannot be done, and you have the power, leave a wood on these slopes, or where this is impossible, set out thick growing trees, such as cedars, spruces, firs, &c., on these sides, to act as screens or shelters. When fully grown, they will present strong barriers to cold winds, and afford you quite an amelioration of climate in the space they shelter.



It is made by setting four posts in the ground, nailing boards on each side and filling the interior with saw dust, shavings, spent tan or some such material. The whole is made of rough boards, and is found to answer the purpose completely.

This out shows the mode of filling between the sides of the house.



We know of several that have now been built some years, and have been filled every winter, and bid fair to last ten or a dozen years longer. It will cost but comparatively little to construct one, and every farmer will find the time and expense of building and filling well invested in the additional amount of comfort and useful aid which ice will afford him during summer.

Mr. E. Marks, in the Rural New Yorker, gives the following directions for making a small ice house, which is pretty much on the same plan as the above, though perhaps not so durable—

"Make a box eight feet square, by nailing hemlock planks which are two inches thick, on to hemlock scantling. Let one side of the box be seven feet high, and the side directly opposite ten feet high. This gives a roof eight feet long, with a slant of three feet.

"It is well to have the roof boards extend over the sides of the box. Double boarding with hemlock makes a sufficient roof. Set the box on the top of the ground, in a dry and shady place where surface water will not accumulate. No planks are needed on the bottom of the box, but sawdust must be placed on the ground inside the box, to the depth of one foot, and over this place loose boards for the ice to lie upon. Cut the cakes of ice two feet square, and build a tower of ice six feet square in the center of your box, (or ice house, we will now call it), by laying the cakes compactly together, filling all crevices with sawdust as you proceed. We have now a cube of ice, with a space all around, between the ice and planks. Fill this space with sawdust, and cover the top of the ice with the same, eighteen inches deep, and you have ice enough secured to last a family through the season. The upper three feet of the side which is ten feet high should not be boarded up, but left for ventilation, and a place of access to the ice, and this aperture may be enlarged as convenience may require, while using the ice, and for more conveniently filling in. About eight hundred feet of lumber will be required, and the merest tyro in the use of

tools can make it. Fresh sawdust is best, but it may be used a second winter. The dust can easily be washed from the ice at the time of using."

A PLEA FOR THE LOMBARDY POPLAR.

We go in, heart and soul, with friend Allen for the Lombardy poplar. He thus discourses about them in the Horticulturist. It was one of the first trees that attracted our attention when a mere child, and we have grieved to see them so cruelly exterminated as they have been of late. We copy the remarks below, and hope that they will be the means of saving some of them from utter extermination from the face of New England. We spoke for some branches of one, this last fall, to be put down in the spring. The owner said he would thank us to take the whole tree out of his sight. They were once a great favorite with our ancestors, perhaps too much so, but the present generation have got on the other extreme in regard to them.

Ed.

Were I disposed to soliloquize, after the fashion of Natty Bumppo, in the midst of the Catskills, while gazing alone from one of its most peaks far away down into the broad valley of the Hudson at the "wastey ways" of the white man, I might commence this, my homely, with the profound remark, that "man is a comely animal!" Even so, as applied to the ornamental verdure whereover he should surround his dwelling, or decorate his grounds. Forty odd years ago—I was a boy then—the pleasant village near which I was nurtured, in the charming valley of the Connecticut, had some of its pleasant houses and dearest streets planted with the Lombardy poplar. They threw up their clean, straight stems, and trembling sugar-loaf tops far above the gray clime which swung their branches in hoarse majesty around them, and with the tall spire of the white meeting house, gave the town a cheerful, happy look, such as is no longer to be seen in the "better taste" of the good people there have cut them all away and supplied their places with locusts, alibonias, and maples. Nor am I disposed to find fault with the ephemeral, cockneyed character of the two first of these, while I yield to no one else in my real admiration of the other. But I never could divine the reason why the cheerful native of sunny Lombardy should be so remorselessly cut away at the bidding of a capricious will, when it really has so much of intrinsic beauty in itself, and appropriately applied, gives such picturesque variety to groups of the round-headed trees in its immediate vicinity. Yet it has been swept utterly out of existence in many localities, and scarce one of our professional landscape-gardeners, or writers, more our tree-rearers, have the moral courage, or true taste to recommend its propagation, or to cultivate it in their grounds.

It is now the twelfth day of November. The soft haze of our Indian summer has been floating around us for a week. One after another the yellow, red, and russet leaves from the various trees in the lawn and adjacent forests, have fallen silently to the ground, and left their limbs bare as in mid-winter; while from the window at which I sit, looking out upon the clear, sweeping Niagara, and on to the opposite Canada shore, keeping guard over the cheerful, white-painted dwellings behind them, mixed in with the golden willow, stand hundreds of beautiful Lombardy poplars for miles along, still glowing in the soft yellow tints of their full leafy tops, and cheering up with life and beauty a most delightful landscape. How gracefully, too, they throw their long shadows into the clear water with the sunshine. Yet fashion—capricious, senseless, fussy fashion, calls them vulgar. Not so do I. Spite of fashion, with its caprice and nonsense, the Lombardy poplar is still a graceful, beautiful tree. And I'll tell you why. Not in stiff, formal rows, like a line of grenadiers with shouldered arms, guarding an outpost; or in naked, staked-like regularity lining an avenue; but shooting up their taper heads here and there among other trees, like the tall spires of churches among wide blocks of houses, giving variety, point, and character to a finished picture.

The Lombardy poplar, like the cotton-wood, is a universal tree. It grows in all our climates alike, from the lagoons of the Gulf of Mexico to the northern extremities of the upper lakes. It grows from the slip. Cut off a branch large as your arm, and plant it two feet in any kind of a soil, no matter how sterile, short of a dead swamp, and it will grow with great rapidity and vigor. In ten years, with no care or pruning, it becomes a stately tree forty feet high. What tree will do the like? It is a clean tree. Its roots throw up no suckers. Worms and vermin seldom molest it—less even than many of those esteemed most ornamental. It is a conspicuous landmark, in elevated spots, indicating, miles away, the spot you wish to reach. Then cut the top down to half a dozen pruned, a dozen feet from the ground. No other tree but a willow will stand that. But the poplar heeds it not. With a vitality unknown to the greatest favorites, it strikes out new its numerous upright shoots, and in two years its taper limbs are high in the air and before you are aware of it, it towers among its fellows as if the saw or axe had never touched a branch. It compares fully with the Italian architecture of our houses—the best of all styles for country buildings. Economical, when dry, it is a good summer fuel. If you doubt it, ask the bakers, or the charcoal men. No wood does better. I speak of this incidentally, valuing it only as an ornament. Yet with all these good qualities, one may ride a hundred miles through a country boasting fine grounds, and elaborate furnishings, without seeing a single specimen.

Let our tastes become better cultivated, and overcome the narrow prejudice that has banished this once graceful and cherished tree from our grounds; and throw it in, here and there, and all about in miscellaneous companionship with others, and then acknowledge that it is grace and beauty, long life, and enduring foliage. It will throw out its rich, brown clusters

of flower buds, when the ground is still filled with frost, and its pea-green leaves open their downy coverts in the earliest spring; it will whisper its grateful rustling music throughout the heats of summer, and cheer you with its soft, yellow garbure till the very frosts of winter cut them down. Ho! then; let us give renewed life to the long-neglected Lombardy poplar.

LEWIS F. ALLEN.

Blackrock, N. Y., 1855.

With regard to this tree, we can just remember that there was an outcry against it, because it was believed to be infested with the "poplar worm," supposed to be poisonous, we believe unjustly so. Fashion has undoubtedly done the deed, and fashion, in due time, will restore it to its true use, as it has done the hollyhock, tobacco till Wordsworth made it again a favorite. It is a rule in the composition of landscape, that all horizontal lines should be balanced and supported by perpendicular ones; hence the Lombardy poplar becomes of great importance in scenery when contrasted with round-headed trees. It is admitted by all writers on the material sublime, from Burke to Douglass Stewart, that gradually tapering objects of great height create the emotion of sublimity. These trees may be advantageously planted wherever there is a continuation of horizontal lines, but they should be so arranged as to form a part of those lines, and to seem to grow out of them rather than to break or oppose them in too abrupt a manner. In the case of a stable or other agricultural building, where the principal mass extends in length, rather than in height, it would be wrong to plant Lombardy poplars, or other tall fastigate trees immediately before the building, but they will have a good effect when placed at the sides, or behind it.

Such trees (fastigate) should appear in all plantations and belts that are made with a view to picturesque effect, but it is a most dangerous tree to be employed by a planter who has not considerable knowledge and good taste in the composition of landscape. It would make an excellent shelter on the prairie; for a screen from the winds it should be planted close, and the top cut off annually. Its rapidity of growth renders it suitable to half-acre a too staring open view where it is desired to look under the branches. Along the sides of lakes lengthened and pleasing reflections are produced, which, breaking the horizontal gleams of light, not only produce variety and richness, but, by increasing the length of the perpendicular lines formed by the poplars, confer a degree of sublimity on the picture.

Ed. Hort.

For the Maine Farmer.

LABOR MISDETERRED.

The most superficial observer cannot fail to have perceived at times, the truth of the adage, that some men will thrive where others would starve. In no class is this fact more apparent than among farmers. The reason why there are so many thrifless farmers, lies not so much in their lack of industry, as in the lack of perception and calculation,—perception of the means necessary to produce a given result, with the least possible expenditure of force.

We know of some farmers who toil with the most indefatigable industry from year to year, and yet they remain as thrifless as ever. The fact is, their labors are misdirected. They take everything the hardest way. They are sure to do two days' work to accomplish every job, where with a little calculation, a little figuring, a little counting of the cost, one day's exertion performed in the right way, would have done the job.

When we see a man year after year ploughing and cropping the hill-tops to obtain a scanty crop while the swamps and swales about his base are covered with bushes and aquatic weeds, for the want of a little well directed energy to subdue them, by ditching, &c., we think that man is laboring hard to make himself poorer.

When the farmer spends a week in the fall, carting his manure to the field, and there deposits it in a heap, to await further operations in the spring, we say to ourselves, (and to him, too, if we have a chance), how much work would be saved, if it was distributed over the ground, and covered with the furrow wheel.

When a farmer who is striving hard "to do something," has accumulated a hundred dollars over and above what is necessary for current expenses, we think he makes a mistake, if he spends the money in buying a pleasure carriage, instead of adding to the intrinsic value of his land by such permanent improvements as this sum would effect.

The fact is, fine carriages, fine furniture and fine clothes, cost the country more than necessary articles of the same sort. We do not object to a combination of the beautiful with the useful; but we would give utility the preponderance at all times. In the west, farmers manage these matters with more common sense than with us. There the farmer (aye, and his wife and daughters too,) can visit town or church, when necessary, in the market wagon; and the money which we spend in pleasure carriages, is by him put to a productive use. H. Augusta, Dec. 17, 1855.

For the Maine Farmer.

FORKS.

Nothing need be said about the improved hay forks, now fast hold on the public sentiment. The use of the improved, polished steel, round tined manure forks ought to be much extended. The long handle is best. In gardens, where small stones interrupt, or the dirt sticks, the fork is better than the spade, will enter the ground easier, and the dirt come off clean.

In ditching awarded wet meadows, let the system be to cut the sides and centre of the ditch with a ditching knife. Cut crosswise with a broad axe. Clear out the ditch with the fork, which will enter much easier than the spade, and throw off clean the soil and muck, especially if mixed with sand. In England, the fork with five tines is most approved, and fast gaining on the spade. The five tined, with the tines somewhat shorter and stouter than is common for manure, is the best fork for ditching. Frankfort, Dec. 18, 1855. A DITCHER.

For the Maine Farmer.

ORDINARY SKILL AND A LITTLE MEDICINE.

NEEDED.

We have an idea, and believe it to be a very correct one, that domestic animals are the subjects of almost all the infirmities that afflict our race, and consequently they require the same treatment and, of course, a certain amount of medical skill, in order to accomplish a favorable termination.

Yet many valuable animals might be saved by the exercise of ordinary skill, aided in the use of some simple therapeutic agent. A horse has a cough, for example, which is occasioned perhaps by an irritate state of the lining membrane of the organs of respiration; a little medicine of the right kind may relieve this cough, and thus prevent a disease of the substance of the lungs.

A horse may be out of condition, manifesting no symptoms of any acute disease; a little alternative medicine and change in diet will often accomplish wonders. Then again a horse is attacked with lameness; embrocations and liniments are needed; these, together with rest and judicious nursing, will generally restore the animal to usefulness. And so as regards veterinary medicine, and a few useful hints to the farmer, constitute the best live stock insurance company that a farmer can boast of, and every man engaged in the rearing of any description of live stock should be provided with a few useful medicines that shall preserve the sanitary condition of the flocks and herds.

Such medicines are to be obtained. Dr. Dadd, one of the most distinguished veterinary surgeons in the United States, having become acquainted with the wants of the farming community in this direction, has furnished a number of very valuable agents that find a ready market throughout the whole country. The Doctor's skill and experience, is a guarantee that these medicines will accomplish all he represents. They are manufactured under his personal direction, by S. N. Thompson, No. 97 Union Street, Boston, Mass., and are for sale, by agents established in every town and village throughout the New England States. December 18, 1855.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

TO MAKE GOOD RUSK. Take a piece of bread dough large enough to fill a quart bowl, one teaspoon of melted butter, one egg, one teaspoonful of saleratus; knead quite hard, roll out thin, lap it together, roll to the thickness of thin biscuit, cut out with a biscuit mould, and set it to rise in a warm place. From twenty to thirty minutes will generally be sufficient. Bake them, and dry thoroughly through and you will have an excellent rusk to eat with your coffee. You can make them with hop yeast, and sweeten them too, if you choose; I use milk yeast.

THE BEST BREAD. The best bread is that made of unbleached wheat flour. In some cases a small portion of wheat bran may be desirable, but the brown, after a short time, will be more palatable, and conducive to a more regular and healthy condition of the system. It has been ascertained that even dogs cannot live over fifty days fed upon fine flour bread and water; when fed upon such as contained the whole or a large portion of the bran, they are found in no respect to suffer. (Water Cure Journal.)

OUTRAGE PUDDING. Put two pints of milk to a pint of oatmeal, and let it soak all night. In the morning, add two well-beaten eggs, and half a teaspoonful of salt. Pour the mixture into a greased basin, or pudding mould; tie it securely in a floured cloth, and boil an hour and a half. This pudding is very nice eaten with a bit of cold butter and malt, or a little melted butter or hot dripping. Should any be left cold, it will be found very nice toasted or fried, and rubbed over with a morsel of butter.

TO MAKE SCRAPPLE. The following mode of making scrapple is highly approved of by many families "in the country."

Boil two or three pig's "faces," a liver, chine-bones, &c., (or omit the liver, if you choose), till the meat comes off the bones and will pick to pieces readily. Take out the meat and half thicken the liquid with Indian meal, which allow to boil, while you pick the meat off the bones, and chop the liver fine; then return the meat, &c., into the pot, and stir in buckwheat flour, till it is as thick as mush. This done, season the mixture with pepper, salt and powdered sage, and put it into pans to cook. Next morning, fry it brown in lard, and see if your children will not decide that the "waste is the best after all."

TO POACH EGGS. Have on the fire a frying-pan with water fast boiling, break each egg into a separate cup, slip them carefully in the boiling water; when the white is quite set, the eggs are done. Take them up with a slice, and serve on buttered toast or bread and butter. Fried eggs are done in the same manner, only instead of water a little fat is used, or a rather of bacon.

TO PREVENT CANDLES GUTTERING. A scientific correspondent informs us that by using the frustum of a cone of wire gauze or perforated metal on the shoulder of a candle, it will keep the candle from flickering and the grease from guttering. This is certainly a good device for such a purpose.

BOIL YOUR MOLASSES. When molasses is used in cooking, it is a very great improvement to boil and skim it before you use it. It takes out the raw taste, and makes it almost as good as sugar. Where molasses is used much for cooking, it is well to prepare one or two gallons in this way at a time.

TO JUDGE OF FLOUR. To judge if flour be pure and good, take a little in the hand, and squeeze it for half a minute; if good, it can be put out of the hand in a lump, retaining the form given to it by the hand; if adulterated, it will fall apart as soon as it leaves the hand.

For the Maine Farmer.

LINES.

In answer to "Where do you live?"

BY FREDERIC WRIGHT.

Where do I live?—a thorough Democrat,  
"My house is shingled when I wear my hat;"  
So said the loafer—and again say I—  
All climates alike—alike is every sky—  
It matters not whatever realm I roam,  
Where night comes on—there is the pilgrim's home!

Where do I live? go ask the pamper'd slave  
Of wealth and fashion, greater fool than knave,  
The child of folly—and his proud compeers,  
These legal trimmers to their times and fears—  
Ask them—doubt not—their answer it will be—  
"Our homes—are homes—but not for him or thee."

Where do I live? 'tis not in tents of ease,  
Nor yet in courts where flattery can please,  
"Mid rounds of pleasure—hand and footless toil,  
That soon would health of every eye have spoil!"  
Though in their midst my erring feet may roam,  
They never were—they could not be my home.

Where do I live? my dwelling's every where;  
God gives the sunshine and the blessed air;  
The mountain top—the shady vale is mine,  
The cloister'd forest with its thoughts divine,  
By gentle stream—where torrents madly foam,  
Or lakes expand—each is the pilgrim's home.

Where do I live? o'er deserts wild I rove,  
Where nature feeds the children of her love  
From her full lap of plenty, and in peace  
Restores her gifts,—unlimited to race—  
Where flocks are nurtured, where the channels climb,  
Tho' far apart—the home of each is mine.

Where do I live? the crowded mart to me,  
The sandy plain, where roams the Arab free,  
The cold enamel'd o'er with blooming flowers,  
The woods uncolored by winter's ruffian hours,  
By marble fount, or by the mossy spring,  
There is my home—when tired of wandering.

Where do I live? my home is with the brave,  
Who delve the soil, or rule the bounding wave,  
No fellowship claim I with time or place,  
No land—no country—no peculiar race;—  
But all who serve their God and country well—  
These are my kindred—in their homes I dwell.

Where do I live? where hearts of truth sincere,  
Would scorn to live and weep o'er freedom's bier;  
Where beauty yields her angel smiles to man,  
Approved of heaven—the first in virtue's van;  
Tho' despots row a dire revenge to come,  
Send undim'd—there is my dearest home!  
Wagatich, N. Y., December, 1855.

PISCATAQUIS AG. &amp; HORT. SOCIETY.

LIST OF AWARDS.

The following is a list of the premiums awarded at the Piscataquis Central Ag. & Hort. Society.

ON FERTILE HORSES.

American Cocker, 1st premium, \$3; Elbridge G. Thompson, 2d, do., 2.

ON BREEDING MARKS.

David C. Brown, 1st premium, 3; Cyrus Staples, 2d, do., 2; Francis W. Brown, gratuity, 1.

ON THREE YEARS OLD COLTS.

John M. Littlefield, 1st premium, 2; Wm. Gilman, 2d, do., 1.

ON TWO YEARS OLD COLTS.

David C. Brown, 1st premium, 1.50; Bradley Tewksbury, 2d, do., 1.

ON YEARLING COLTS.

Reuben N. Stowell, 1st premium, 1.50; David C. Brown, 2d, do., 1.

ON BUSINESS HORSES.

Henry W. Norcross, 1st premium, 1.

ON MATCHED HORSES.

Stephen Lowell, 1st premium, 2; Walter G. Jewett, 2d, do., 1.

ON STOCK.

Hiram Blood, bull, 3 years old, girl 6 feet 11 in., 1st premium, 3; Salmon Holmes, bull, 2 years old, girl 6 ft. 7 in., 2d do., 2; Ira Rowe, bull, 2 years old, girl 6 ft. 3 in., gratuity, 1; Nathaniel B. Fish, bull, 16 months old, girl 5 ft. 9 in., grat. 1; Samuel Greely, 1 year old, girl 5 ft. 4 in., grat. 75 cts.; Samuel Campbell, bull calf, grat. 1.

Samuel G. Dexter, heifer, 2 years old, 1st premium, 1.50; Samuel Greely, 2d do., 75 cts.; Chas. P. Chandler, 1 year old, 1st premium, 1; Ira Rowe, 2d do., 50 cts.; Ira Rowe, heifer calf, 1st premium, 1.

James Lee, 3 years old steers, 1st premium, 2; Wm. Downes, 2d do., 1.50; Aaron Jackson, 3d do., 1; Leonard Robinson, 2 years old steers, 1st premium, 1.50; Cyrus Staples, 2d do., 1; David C. Brown, 1 year old steers, 1st premium, 1; Leonard Robinson, 2d do., 75 cts.; Salmon Holmes, steer calves, 1st premium, 1.

Samuel G. Dexter, stock cow, 1st premium, 3; Chas. P. Chandler, milk cow, 1st premium, 2.

SHEEP &amp; SWINE.

Asel Heald, buck, 1st premium, 2; Jacob Leeman, 2d do., 1; Chas. Parker, Jr., 3d do., 50 cts.

James Bush, boar, 1st premium, 1.50; Ira Rowe, six pigs, 1st premium, 1.

ON WORKING OXEN.

Daniel Hewitt, 1st premium, 3; Cyrus Shaw, 2d do., 2; Daniel Hewitt, 3d do., 1.

ON NEW CATTLE ACCORDING TO SEX.

Francis W. Brown, 1st premium, 2; John Bias, 2d do., 1.

BEST DRAWING.

Wm. N. Thompson, 1st premium, 2; Daniel Packard, 2d do., 1.

BEST TRAINED 3 YEARS OLD STEERS.

Cyrus Holmes, 1st premium, 2; Wm. Downes, 2d do., 1.

ON TOWN TREES.

Leonard Robinson, for town of Foxcroft, best 6 pairs oxen, 1st premium, 3.

ON PLOWING.

Moses L. Robinson and Wm. N. Thompson, plowing, 1st premium, 2; West Robinson, 2d do., 1.50; Moses W. Gilman and C. Shaw, 3d do., 1; George Dooty, plowing with horses, 1st premium, 2.

ON BUTTER.

Walter G. Jewett, June butter, 1st premium, 3; Chas. Loring, September butter, 1st premium, 1.

ON CHEESE.

Stephen Lowell, 1st premium, 2; Ellis Robinson, 2d do., 1; Samuel Greely, 3d do., 50 cts.

FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Chandler Brown & Co., Foxcroft, plow, 1st premium, 2; Harris & Kelley, Foxcroft, hay forks, 1st premium, 1; same, manure forks, 1st prem., 50 cts.; same, hoes, 1st premium, 50 cts.

HOUSEHOLD MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

S. S. Greely, woolen blanket, 1st premium, 1.50; Mrs. L. Howard, same, 2d do., 1; Mrs. H. Blood, rag carpet, 1st premium, 1; Miss A. N. Howard, woolen dress pattern, 1; same, woolen shawl, 1; same, cotton and wool shawl, 1st premium, 1; Mrs. J. L. Millet, same, 2d do., 50 cts.; Mrs. J. Hart, hearth rug, 1st premium, 1; Mrs. D. Hewitt, 2d do., 50 cts.; Mrs. W. Delane, bed spread, 1; Mrs. A. Chamberlain, woolen yarn, 50 cts.; Mrs. E. W. McLean, table linen, 1st premium, 75 cts.; Mrs. H. Blood, bed quilt, 1st premium, 75 cts.; Mrs. C. Brown, same, 2d do., 50 cts.; Mrs. J. Bailey, table cloth, 1st premium, 50 cts.; Mrs. L. Millet, stair carpet, 1st premium, 1; Mrs. Gilman Clark, hearth rug, gratuity, 50 cts.; Mrs. John Bailey, floor carpet, 50 cts.; Mrs. H. Blood, heavy woollen, 75 cts.; Mrs. L. Millet, woolen gloves, 25 cts.; Mrs. D. Bailey, woolen table cover, 50 cts.; Mrs. W. Delane, door mat, 30 cts.

2 chair covers by a lady 82 years of age (name not presented), 50 cts.

LADIES' FANCY WORK.

Miss Helen E. Tolman, bonnet, 23 cts.; Mrs. E. W. McLean, lamp mat, 25 cts.; Mrs. L. Chamberlain, card basket, 17 cts.; Miss C. C. Meader, wren handkerchief, 25 cts.; Mrs. D. Hewitt, wrought mat, 25 cts.; Mrs. H. Dooty, wrought collar, 25 cts.; same, under shawl, 50 cts.; Mrs. E. W. McLean, rickert, 25 cts.; same, crocheted stand cloth, 25 cts.; same, wrought stand cloth, 25 cts.; same, edging, 17 cts.; Mrs. Gilman Clark, shell monument, 25 cts.; Miss Henrietta Chamberlain, picture frame, 25 cts.

BREAD.

Mrs. Gilman Clark, rye and Indian bread, 1st premium, 1; Mrs. Cyrus Holmes, 2d do., 50 cts.; Mrs. Leeman, bread, 1st premium, 1; Mrs. Gilman Clark, four bread, 1st premium, 1; Miss Henrietta Chamberlain, 2d do., 50 cts.; Mrs. Gilman Clark, barley bread, gratuity, 50 cts.

FRUIT.

Cyrus Holmes, specimen winter apples, 1st premium, 1; P. M. Joffe, 2d do., 50 cts.; Jacob Leeman, bushel summer apples, 4 varieties, 1st premium, 1; Cyrus Holmes, 2d do., 50 cts.; Cyrus Holmes, best specimen pears, 1st premium, 50 cts.

SUSCRIPTIONS.

Cyrus Holmes, apple paver, gratuity, 25 cts.; Loring Plummer, wash and keeler table, 50 cts.; Luther Chamberlain, carving knife and fork, 50 cts.; Edwin Brown, calliper rule, 25 cts.; Jacob Leeman, maple molasses, 25 cts.; Moses Flinders, lot of leather, premium, 1; Harvey N. Greely, show case, 1; Bela A. Hammond, single wagon, 2.

ABOUT MANURE SHEDS.

When we see a reasonable scheme in successful operation, we feel more of its force—it stirs us more—than anything we may only hear of it. So thought certain farmers—or at least so acted he, when he went to work the other day to build a manure shed. He has often heard it remarked that manure kept under shelter was worth double that left exposed in the yard—he had often noticed the difference in its smell, texture, and appearance on his own premises, but he had never tried the two, side by side, in a fair experiment, until the present year.



AUGUSTA:  
THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1885.

**COMMENCEMENT OF THE VOLUME.**  
With this number we commence the 24th volume of the Maine Farmer, relying on we have heretofore done, upon a kind Providence and the farmers of Maine, for aid and assistance to conduct and make it useful during the coming year.

This reliance has never, as yet, been misplaced, and to both we are under great obligations. In opening a new volume, we propose to renew our labors and exertions to place before our readers matter connected with their business, which shall be of practical service to them in that business. We shall use every means in our power, not only to "keep up with the times," as the saying is, but to post our readers along also, and to aid them in every way to the new current knowledge of the day, touching agricultural and industrial subjects that shall come within our reach. By way of illustrations, arrangements have been made, by which we shall as often as once in two or three weeks, give a handsome engraving of some animal or some new machine, valuable for its aid in the saving of labor in some of the pursuits of life. Among other things, we shall give portraits of many of the prize animals exhibited at the late United States Show and Fair at Boston.

These alone, will form a very interesting collection, and make our readers acquainted with the appearance, good points, and many of the characteristics of the best breeds of animals now in the United States. To meet these increased expenses, we have faith that our agricultural brethren will be very willing to continue their helps, not only by a continuance of their subscriptions, but by influencing their friends and neighbors, who have not yet found it convenient to give us that "material aid" so necessary to publishers. This faith has heretofore been repaid to us in great degree as it was reasonable to expect. An increasing faith in the accomplishment of the high purposes which all the friends of agricultural improvement aim at and desire, stimulates and sustains us in our labors. Though much remains to be done, it is cheering and encouraging to realize that good progress has been made in what may be called the beginning. It is something, indeed a good step to know definitely and clearly our needs, to realize wherein we are most lacking. This well understood, will induce us to take the right steps to supply our wants in the best and most permanent manner. Hence the study and the labor of so many active minds among us. They have become informed and satisfied in their own minds of what is needed to render the pursuits of agriculture more profitable, and their toil more effective. They find that the laws of chemistry, of physiology, and mechanical philosophy, are all called into action in the different departments of their profession, and the discussion now with them is, how shall the known laws be best applied to our advantage? How shall they most economically and permanently be made known to others? How shall the laws hitherto undiscovered be developed?

Patience, laboring research, and continued investigation are required, and an adoption of the best modes of putting these requisites into productive action, in a great desideratum of the present day, among the productive classes. Agricultural publications are part of the machinery for doing this. They form the record-book at least—the journal or log-book, in which are found the history of what has been done, and the amount of progress of the voyage thus far. They also act as heralds to proclaim the facts to the world, and to make known to all who will listen to their voices, the true state of things.

The better, therefore, they are sustained, the more active they become, and the more active they are, the greater will be the beneficial results of that action. This is a matter which directly or indirectly concerns every individual, and we leave it to each one to say what he can consistently do in order to discharge his part of the labor of life, which this devolves upon him as useful and consistent member of the great human family.

**FIRE—ARREST OF THE INCENDIARY.** An alarm of fire was given on Sunday evening last, about 9 o'clock, caused by an attempt to burn the store on the east side of the river known as the "Hooper building," and owned by J. W. Patterson, Esq. The fire was fortunately discovered in season to prevent any serious damage to the building.

On the same night, Ebenezer Hussey was arrested on a charge of setting the above fire, and on examination before Judge Mulliken, on Monday, the evidence was considered strong enough to warrant his being bound over to appear at the March term of the Supreme Court. In default of bail in \$800, he was committed to jail.

**A MISTAKE HAPPILY CORRECTED.** We copied an article from the Newburyport Herald, in our last, stating that Mr. J. W. Randall, who was robbed near that city, a few months since, had died from the injuries received. This was a mistake. A correspondent of the Herald, writing from Livermore Falls, states that he is alive, with a fair prospect of recovery. An attack of erysipelas in the face for some days threatened to prove fatal, but was finally thrown off, and Mr. R. is now convalescent.

**THE EXPRESS ROBBERY.** We gave an account, last week, of the arrest of four persons, charged with the robbery of the American Express Company, last fall. Subsequently, John B. Hazleton, one of the parties arrested, was released, on \$1000 bail, the government concluding to use him as a witness against the others. Oliver King, another of the prisoners, who had been released by some citizens of Lawrence, was re-arrested on Friday, on a requisition of the Governor of New York. The examination of the accused was fixed for Thursday, 27th inst.

**GOOD CHOPS.** Mr. R. K. Gilman, of Appleton, raised on two-thirds of an acre, two ears of pumpkins, one among them weighing 534 pounds, and measuring 4 ft. and 8 in. in circumference.

Mr. Jacob R. Peavy, of Liberty, raised on one third of an acre, 325 bushels of good, hand-some, ruta baga turnips, one of which weighed 21 lbs. He is ready to hear from any one who has done better.

**SABBATH SCHOOL LEVES.** The Methodist Society in Winthrop village, will hold a Sabbath School Levee in the Town Hall on New Year's day evening.

## NAVIGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, just issued, gives some very important information with regard to the commerce and navigation of the country. We have gathered some items with regard to the ship-building industry, especially in this State, that will prove interesting to our readers.

We find that the total amount of tonnage built in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1885, was \$83,450 tons. The total number of vessels was 2024, made up as follows: ships and barques, 381; brigs, 126; schooners, 605; sloops and canal boats, 669; steamers, 243. As usual, Maine heads the list. Her build of shipping is almost one-half the entire amount built in the Union, being 215,904 tons. The number of vessels built in Maine is 396, as follows: 213 ships and barques; 107 brigs; 68 schooners; 2 sloops; and 6 steamers. This is greatly in advance of any other State, the next on the list being New York, which builds 115,281 tons. The number of vessels built in New York was 45 ships and barques; 7 brigs; 98 schooners; 356 sloops and canal boats; and 48 steamers; total, 554. Massachusetts comes next, building 70 ships and barques; 3 brigs; 59 schooners; 3 sloops, &c.; and 9 steamers; with an aggregate tonnage of 79,660. Pennsylvania builds 44,415 tons; Maryland, 22,534 tons; Ohio, 17,731 tons, (mostly steamers); Connecticut, 14,067 tons; and New Jersey, 10,950 tons. The other States all fall short of 10,000 tons.

The total amount of tonnage built in 1884, was \$35,636 tons, and the increase this year is 47,814 tons. In this connection we note a remarkable fact, viz: that, of this aggregate increase, Maine claims 47,273 tons, she having increased to that amount over her build of the year previous! On the other hand, New York has decreased, during the same period, 1,935 tons, and Massachusetts 14,901, and several other States fall off in the amount of shipping built; but Pennsylvania gains 7,647 tons, and Maryland 2,172 tons. Some other States make slight gains.

The chief shipbuilding districts in this State, and their build the past year, are as follows: Bath, 56,929 tons; Waldoborough, 49,678; Portland, 25,800; Passamaquoddy, 17,999; Belfast, 15,343; Wiscasset, 14,493; Frenchman's Bay, 10,398. The others all build less than 10,000 tons each.

During the calendar year 1884, Maine actually built 466 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 257,760 tons, and for the past two years, 1884 and 1885, Maine has built a greater amount of tonnage than the whole build of the United States in 1845, which was 146,018 tons. These statements show the importance of our shipping interests in a striking light. With reference to these same statistics, the "State of Maine" says:

"What is particularly noticeable in this connection, is the high class of vessels built. Of the 2024 vessels of all descriptions built in 1885, Maine built but 396 in number, showing that we build the very largest class of vessels. Of the 381 ships and barques built in 1885, Maine built 213. A large portion of the tonnage of New York is canal boats, worth but a trifle per ton compared with that of the noble fleet of ships that Maine annually puts to sea. In 1884 the average tonnage of all the vessels built in Maine was 642 tons each, while in 1885 the average was 542 tons. The 213 ships built in Maine in 1885 would average nearly 1000 tons each, a commercial marine such as was never before launched in a single year upon the bosom of the deep. Our young but thrifty and enterprising State, 'THE STATE OF MAINE,' this day owns more merchant vessels, and presents a commercial marine greater than France, or Spain, or Holland, greater in fact than any nation of Europe with the exception of Great Britain and Ireland."

**PORTLAND AND THE MAMMOTH ENGLISH STEAMSHIP.** The prospect now is, that the mammoth iron steamship building in England, will make Portland the terminus of her first voyage to this country, which is expected to come off during the summer of 1886. The Portland Advertiser of Saturday, 15th, says:

Captain Harrison of the Cunard steamship Africa, was in town yesterday, for the purpose of making certain observations in reference to the channels and soundings of our harbor, in view of the expected voyage to this port, of the Australian Steam Navigation Company's mammoth steamer, of which Capt. H. is to be commander.

Alexander M. Rose, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Bidder and other officers of the Grand Trunk Railway company, together with Lieut. Franklin of the Light House Service, and several ship masters of this port, made a short excursion with Capt. Harrison down the harbor, taking the opportunity to verify the most important soundings laid down on the Coast Survey Chart. These soundings were found to be accurately stated at all the points examined.

**IMPORTANT WAR RUMOR.** The Paris correspondent of the New York Post, gives the following important rumor concerning the evacuation of the Crimea by the allied forces. The next arrival will probably confirm its truth or falsity. He says:

"Marshall Pelissier demands permission to evacuate the Crimea forthwith. He declares that it is impossible to continue operations there, on account of the want of water for the horses of the army. The Russians have poisoned the wells, and he asks, what is the use of keeping an army of 100,000 men up in the trenches? It will be sufficient to leave garrisons at four or five points, but to have a great force here in regard to the moral effect of an evacuation of the Crimea. The matter is still undecided. It is probable, however, that the advice of Marshal Pelissier will be adopted. It is also said that England wishes next spring to undertake alone the maritime expedition against Constantinople, reserving to herself, however, the privilege of demanding the aid of an army for disembarkation in case of necessity."

**APPROPRIATED.** Speaking of the pleasing little volume of Poems, "Forest Buds," noticed in another column, the Boston Transcript says: "As an evidence of the merits of these poems we will mention that we recently copied one of the pieces, and laid aside the journals in which it was copied. In twenty days we had thirty-two exchange papers containing the gem."

**LANKE TRIPPER.** Mr. J. L. Sargent, of Milo, killed a twelve year old heifer, a few days since, that weighed, when dressed, 770 lbs. She had never had any extra feed, until within two months, and we think she made a good use of her time, after she was put to pasture.

**NEW DRESS.** The Boston Journal made its appearance, the past week, in an entire new suit, adding greatly to its appearance. The Journal is well known throughout New England as one of the most ably conducted and enterprising newspapers of the day, keeping its readers fully posted up on all matters of news or interest. Glad to note this evidence of your prosperity, Bro. Rogers.

**ENTERED ON HIS DUTIES.** On Wednesday last week, Mr. E. C. Hyde, recently elected Superintendent of the K. & P. R. R., entered upon the duties of his office. Mr. Hyde is succeeded, as Cashier of the Bath Bank, by Mr. Partridge of Scarborough.

**WOMAN'S GARY OWEN.** A man in Taunton (good Lord) thinks we are "a brick." Two black birds for that, friend—never aspired to the honor even of a brickbat.

## EDITOR'S TABLE.

**PRACTICAL COOKERY.** Compiled by Elizabeth M. Hall. New York: Miller, Orton & Mulligan. We suppose there never was a book book written, yet, in which there were not more or less faults, either of omission or commission, but we think this to be as free from such as any of the class. One great recommendation of this work is the fact that the most of these receipts are such as do not require any great outlay of money to follow—no small recommendation, now-a-days. Besides directions for all kinds of cooking, there are a large number of miscellaneous receipts, many of them very valuable. This book may be found at Penno's.

**FOREST BUDS.** By Florence Percy. Boston: Brown, Basin & Co.; Portland: Francis Blake. This is a little volume of poetry, from the pen of a lady of Maine, whose signature of "Florence Percy" is often met with in literary papers. The readers will find many pretty little fancies, and much to interest him, as it turns over the leaves of these gathered forest buds. We hope the fair authoress will meet an adequate return for her ventures. For sale in this city by Stanwood & Sturgis.

**GREAT ROSE DIAMOND.** By Mrs. Ann A. Carter. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co. A very pretty, pleasing little fairy tale for children, and prettily, and pleasingly in handsome style. Happy the youngster, (or youngsters, either,) whose stockings, on Christmas morning, is distended by this book. If Christmas were not past, we would say, drop in at Stanwood & Sturgis, and purchase one of these for the children. Perhaps, however, they may have one or two left for New Year's—and it would be an acceptable gift at any time.

**PUNYMAN'S MONTHLY.** The last two or three numbers of this magazine have been very good, but we think the January number is better still. The leading article in this number is entitled "William Shakespeare and His Plays; an inquiry concerning them." We think this article will be found of special interest to all admirers of Shakespeare. "The Ghost," a Christmas story; "A Christmas Carol," "The Virginia Springs," a review of Mr. Prescott's "Philip the Second;" "Low Life—in the Pampas;" "A Legend of Elsinore;" "Scampavias—the Cockpit;" "Progress of Religious Ideas"—a review of Mrs. L. M. Child's new work; "Owlspoke—a story of Reform and Reformers;" "Calhoun on Government;" and "Editorial Notes" on literature and art, comprise the balance of contents for this month. It is a most excellent number, as any one may know, who peruses the above table of contents. Published by Dix & Edwards, New York, at \$3 per annum.

**HARPER'S MAGAZINE.** Harper has really "struck a vein" in his January number. Besides coming to hand a full fortnight earlier than usual, the engravings are more numerous, and the reading matter more entertaining than ever. First we are shown, and told, what wonderful changes the "Republic of United Interests" will present on the first day of January, A. D. 3000. Virginia Illustrated! is a continuation of the adventures of Portia Crayon and his fair cousin in the "Old Dominion."

"The Way to Get Blown Up," and "Passages of Eastern Travel," are handsomely illustrated. Then comes what will be regarded as the great attraction of this number, the first part of Dickens' new story, "Little Dorrit," with two illustrations. Besides all these, two excellent tales "Half a Lifetime ago," and "Baby Bertie's Christmas," are given in full. The Editor's Departments, the Fashions, and the Humorous Illustrations, are all worthy of note. When we receive Harper's Magazine, and run our eyes over the mass of reading and engravings it each month gives its readers, we do not wonder at its popularity, but only that it is not found in every family in the land. Harper & Bros. New York, publishers. Terms, \$3 per annum.

**THE PORTFOLIO.** We refer our readers who may be in want of a good family paper, to the advertisement of Capt. Sleeper, in another column. We have been in receipt of his new paper, since its commencement, and have been much pleased therewith. "Hawser Martingale" is a regular contributor to its pages, and as original as ever, and we doubt not the new story which he announces for the opening year will be a good one. We intend to treat our readers to some of his stories, before long.

**LARGE ONES.** We have to record this week, another large yoke of oxen, owned by Mr. A. W. Parkman, of Bloomfield, which are six years of age, eight ft. 4 in., and 8 ft. 4 in. in length, and stand 5 ft. 4 in. "in their stockings." Their weight is 4,700 lbs., and they are completely matched, in every respect. They have been used to the yoke since they were two years old, and for two years have done all the team work of the farm. Mr. P. thinks it will be hard to beat Somerset, on this oxen.

**"Parker's Head"** desires to state that the citizens of that place are not entirely destitute of something to fry their doughnuts in, so long as they raise such pigs as the following:—One killed by Mr. James Wright, six months old, weight 340 lbs., one, same age, by Mr. John Moulton, weight 320 lbs., one, same age by Mr. Thomas Oliver, weight 330 lbs.; and one five months old, by Mr. Ezekiel Oliver, weight 270 lbs. Well done, Parker's Head!

**FREDERIC DOUGLASS IS COMING.** Frederic Douglass, well known as the author of the work entitled "My Bondage and my Freedom" will lecture in Augusta on Monday evening January 21st. He will spend a week in this vicinity, and any of the Lyceums can possibly engage him by addressing Edward Penno, Esq., of this city.

Mr. D. is one of the most remarkable men of the times. He was formerly a slave in Maryland, and by the force of his native talents, raised himself up from abject bondage to his present high rank as a scholar, writer, and most eloquent speaker.

**NORTHERN COON SKINS.** However much that "same old coon" may have been vilified he is nevertheless a valuable animal when reared up in our northern forests. His skin makes elegant robes, and beautiful fur overcoats. We saw a splendid coat of this kind in the fur and hat store of our neighbor Getchell, in this city the other day. The skins were prepared and the coat manufactured in his establishment, and is a fine specimen both of the products of our forests, and the skill of our people. Mr. G. informs us that Maine Coon skins at this time of the year, are among the best in the world.

**FANCY FOWLS.** If any one feels symptoms of the Hen fever and wishes to obtain good specimens of the different breeds of poultry, we would recommend to him Mr. Philander Williams, of Taunton, Mass., who will supply him on reasonable terms, with the different kind of hens, from a pocket Bantam to a Brama Pouter. We have obtained from him some good specimens of English and Cape, and a pair of "Native American" wild geese. We can take a "wild goose chase" now, without going from home.

## CONVENIENT MACHINES FOR FARMERS.

**MEAT CUTTERS.** The other day we tried one of the meat cutters manufactured by our neighbor Luther Whitman, of Winthrop. It is a small cast iron cylindrical box, in which is a cylinder armed with spiral rows of cutters which play between knives fixed to the box. A hopper on the top to feed in the meat, and an orifice below to deliver it when cut. The cylinder is turned by a crank, and it will make minced meat much finer and nicer than could be made in the same time by forty old fashioned chopping knives. It will also cut apples or any thing else of the kind, and is really a capital thing for those who in large families are under the necessity of making, every week, lots of mince pies or stacks of hashed meat. It makes them of several sizes worth from \$4 to \$10.

**ROOT CUTTERS.** We have obtained from him an excellent root cutter, which we find a great labor saving machine in the barn. We can cut a bushel of turnips into shavings in two or three minutes with it. It will also slice up pumpkins in the same manner. There is no danger of your cattle or sheep being choked when fed with roots sliced with one of these,—cost about \$10.00.

**CORN SHELLEES.** We also made trial of an improved corn sheller made in large numbers by Mr. W. which renders corn shelling a mere pastime. It is so constructed that it pours the shelled corn into your basket at the foot of the machine, and throws the cobs out one side of you, completely separating the two. The cost is about six dollars.

**THE WEATHER.** The weather conditions moderate. Several days, the past week, were so warm that the streets were quite muddy, and the remnants of ice and snow rapidly disappeared. This morning, Christmas, it bids fair for a snow storm. The reports from other parts of the country are similar. The Bangor Courier of the 17th says:—

"We have not consulted the oldest inhabitant in regard to extraordinary weather in former years, but we doubt if a December like the present is ever remembered. The weather has had no snow as yet, with the exception of an inch or two, which melted away in a short time—and our rain-storms have generally cleared off in a warm corner. The river has closed its trips. There is now very little ice in the water, (Monday,) is such as would clear it of ice in a short time. A very dense fog prevailed in the morning, (after a warm rain), and the air at noon is more suggestive of June than of December. A friend informs us that the bulk of his blackberry bushes are opening."

In Canada the winter is also unusually mild. The Montreal Gazette, of the 18th, says:—

"The weather has been very mild for several days past. On Sunday it rained heavily. The ice has disappeared from the river, and yesterday the Grand Trunk Railway ferry boat returned from its winter quarters and resumed its trips. There is now very little ice in the water, (Monday,) is such as would clear it of ice in a short time. A very dense fog prevailed in the morning, (after a warm rain), and the air at noon is more suggestive of June than of December. A friend informs us that the bulk of his blackberry bushes are opening."

A correspondent writing from Presque Isle, Aroutook Co., under date of Dec. 19, says:—

"The weather is very mild and variable here, and we have but little snow. Sleighting excellent."

Another correspondent writing from Dalton, Georgia, says:—

"We have had some frosty mornings, but the mercury now (Dec. 14) stands at 60° above zero." That is warm enough for December.

**DISASTER TO A MAINE VESSEL.** We find the following account of a disaster to a Maine vessel, in the Traveller, dated Nassau, (Bahamas), Dec. 13:—

The American brigantine Crimes, Alexander Robinson, master, from Thomaston, Me., bound for New Orleans, with a cargo of 1200 bbls. lime, put into this port in distress, having on the 25th ult. carried away her foremast, head, topmast sails, &c. Capt. Hiram Robinson, who was master of the vessel when she left Thomaston, was lost overboard on the first night out.

**CONGRESS.** There has been nothing done, the past week. At a ballot for speaker, on Monday, Banks had 101 votes—a falling off from his last vote.

**SENTENCE FOR MURDER.** In the Supreme Judicial Court yesterday, Judge Davis presiding, Martin Conley and John Conley, convicted of murder in the 2d degree, were brought up for sentence.

The prisoners were convicted at the March Term, 1884, of causing the death of Thomas Quinn, an affray, when a man named William Conley, who was to be a female in disguise, she confessed the trick, and was married, and had a child. Her name is Emma Barnes, and she was born in Moscow, Me., in 1839. Therefore she is not quite seventeen years old. In 1884 she married a man named DeLarch, Lowell, and her child is now living with her sister in Maine. She had been to sea before, and was active in climbing the rigging as the most expert "old salt." She had a very mischievous reputation, and the captain designs sending her home.

**LUMBERING PROSPECT.** We are informed by those interested in the lumbering business, that lumbering operations will be very limited, owing to a combination of causes. The season, so far, has been very unfavorable to prosecute the business. There is little or no snow in the woods, and the lakes are open.

**LIVE FUR.** It is stated that one of the fur-trappers on the Penobscot arrived in town last Sunday with a large lot of furs, among which were seventy-six live cats in a large box. The music was great, and the party was constrained to remain in the suburbs of Brewer, lest the people going to church should discover the strange character of his freight.

**FIRE.** The saw mill belonging to Mr. Jas. Palmer, in this town, about three miles from the village, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday morning last. Lost about \$500, on which there was no insurance. We do not learn how the fire originated.

**THE BARN OF WM. RUSSELL, OF HARMONY,** was consumed by fire on Thursday night last, together with all his hay and grain, one yoke of oxen and two cows. We did not learn how the fire originated, the amount of loss, or whether there was any insurance.

**THE RENEWAL OF CIVIL WAR IN BRENDA** Accounts received in England give Buenos Ayres dates to November 2, which state the defeat of Gen. Harraz's force on the southern frontier by the Indians. It was also stated that a force under Goror Da had revolted. Gen. Urquiza's force it was believed, had crossed the Arroyo del Medio, and great danger was felt in consequence. Exchange on London was quoted at 67.

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## GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &amp;c.

**The New U. S. Steamer Ramoth.** The Norfolk Argus says that this vessel, which met with an accident at her launch the other day, has nearly sailed with water, so that it is necessary to take immediate measures to raise her and repair the damage. Steam pumps will be used, and two tripes will be sunk, one on each side, in order to raise her, after which she will be taken into dry dock for repairs. In the meantime the steamship Merrimack, the keel of which was laid at the same time at the Charlestown Navy Yard, is nearly equipped, and will shortly be ready for sea.

**Fortunate Escape of 100 Children from Death by Fire.** Philadelphia, Dec. 20. An attempt was made at an early hour this morning to set fire to the Northern Temporary Home for Friendless Children, in this city. The fire was kindled in the lower part of the building, but was fortunately speedily extinguished. One hundred children were in the upper portion of the building.

**Franking Privilege of Members of Congress.** The Washington Union understands some post-masters are in doubt whether, under the new law requiring prepayments of all letters to places within the United States, letters addressed to members of Congress may go without being prepaid. The answer, of course, is, that all such letters should be duly dispatched, as the franking privilege remains unchanged.

**Alabama Finances.** The receipts into the State Treasury of Alabama from Sept. 30, 1883, (including a balance of 1,236,069 68, at that period) to Sept. 30, 1885, were \$2,595,361 72. The disbursements for the same time have been \$1,389,152 68, leaving a balance of \$1,206,209 04. The Treasurer anticipates that for the future the annual revenue will not meet the expenditures by the sum of about \$50,000. The legitimate expenses of the State are about 194,000 per year.

**Bogus Insurance Companies.** The New York Mirror says the swindling fire insurance companies in that city are being overhauled as they deserve. Indictments have been found against the President and Secretary of the Tontine office, recently exploded. An investigation by the commissioner, just made, shows the assets of the Henry Clay Fire Insurance Co. were \$132,690, and the liabilities \$203,706. A considerable portion of the assets are loans from one to eleven feet under water at high tide.

**Railroad Invention.** Henry Bates of New London, Ct., has invented an anti-compression valve for railroad locomotives—the valve being placed on the cylinder, to obviate an acknowledged difficulty already existing owing to the non-escape of waste steam as the piston advances or recedes. This invention, it is said, saves twenty-nine per cent. on the amount of fuel required to run an engine, by preventing the usual loss of power in this part of the machinery.

**How it works.** The Halifax (N. S.) Sun, says that in consequence of the Reciprocity Treaty, upwards of \$200,000, solid cash, will find its way into the pockets of the Nova Scotia fishermen. The trade of New Brunswick is going to receive a great impetus from the policy cause. The exports of wheat from Toronto during the past season amount to 621,000 bushels, of which 504,000 went to the United States. The exports of flour for the same period comprised 147,000 barrels, of which 115,400 went to United States ports. The result of reciprocity.

**Coming Down.** The Ogdensburg Sentinel of the 11th inst., says that four fell in that village, last week, about 75 cents per barrel. After the last vessel cleared from Chicago, wheat fell all there to \$1.30 per bushel. The country is full of all kinds of produce, and there is no cause to keep up the high prices.

**The Crimean Railway.** The Daily News correspondent says, "Since last week two additional locomotives (old ones) have been landed at Balaklava and placed upon the railway. The little 'Alliance' has already begun to run on the line; and, as she puffs and screeches along at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour, with her cumbersome tail of some half-dozen heavily laden trucks, intense is the gaping wonderment, and multitudinous are the 'mashallahs' of many a crowd of Tartars, Croats, Bulgarians, pure-blooded Turks, Arabs, Hindoos, and Heaven knows what other nationalities besides, whom heavy wages and light work have attracted to this Crimean Babel."

**New Line of Steamers.** A new line of ocean steamers has recently been projected by the Belgian government, to ply between Belgium and New York. Four propellers are in the course of completion. The first, the Belgique, will be dispatched from Antwerp on the 31st of this month.

**Another Steamboat Burned.** On Sunday the 9th inst., the boat Unicorn, plying on the Mississippi, took fire about fifteen miles below Yazoo City, and was totally destroyed. She had on board about 1,450 bales of cotton, and 18 cabin passengers. The passengers (among whom were several ladies) and the crew barely escaped with their lives, but it was impossible to prevent the loss of baggage. The books and papers of the boat were totally destroyed. There was a considerable amount of money in the safe, which was also lost. The total loss by the catastrophe is estimated at \$75,000.

**Novel Law Suit.** The Directors of the New York and New Haven Railroad Company served an attachment on the homestead of Lewis O. Wilson, Esq., of Norwalk, which is worth \$100,000, for breaking open the door of a locked car, in a train, to accommodate some 15 or 20 passengers who were obliged to stand up. He did so because the brakeman could not be found nor any one to unlock the door. The directors are open to severe animadversion for bringing such an action, as the whole damage, it appears, could be repaired for 25 cents.

**The California Tobacco Crop.** It is estimated that the growth of tobacco in California, the present season, will amount to fifty thousand pounds. One grower in Contra Costa county, a few miles from Martinez, estimates that his crop will amount to 6000 pounds. Tobacco promises to become an important agricultural staple of this State.

**Excessive Interest.** The Hartford Times reports a law case in which it was testified that interest at the rate of twenty cents per day on \$100, or 73 per cent. per annum, had been paid on a note of \$800. It was also stated that \$300 more than the face of the note had been paid as interest.

**Perpetual Motion.** A man named Willis has on exhibition at New Haven, a machine which he claims to be the solution of the perpetual motion problem. The Palladium, of that ilk, says that "the machine certainly goes, and there is no chance, as any body has yet discovered, of its being moved by any extraneous or concealed force."

**Large reading room.** The largest room in the world is now nearly completed in the British Museum. It is circular, 140 feet in diameter, and 140 feet in height. The tables will accommodate nearly 400 readers. The wrought iron book cases will contain 102,000 volumes. The cost of the room will be about \$300,000.

**RENEWAL OF CIVIL WAR IN BRENDA** Accounts received in England give Buenos Ayres dates to November 2, which state the defeat of Gen. Harraz's force on the southern frontier by the Indians. It was also stated that a force under Goror Da had revolted. Gen. Urquiza's force it was believed, had crossed the Arroyo del Medio, and great danger was felt in consequence. Exchange on London was quoted at 67.

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## A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.

We regret to learn that Mr. Eliza Merrill, of New Gloucester, was drowned in Sabbath-day pond, on Saturday, at about 10 o'clock, on Thursday last. He left home on that day to make a visit to a house about two miles distant, and it is supposed he attempted to cross the pond, but the ice was not strong enough to bear him, and he broke through. His prolonged absence excited alarm on the part of his friends, search was made, which resulted in finding his body in the pond on Monday last, the spot where he broke through being indicated by his cap, which was lying upon the ice. (Portland Advertiser, 20th.)

On Tuesday last, Mr. Willard J. Hemmaway, of Searsmont, lost his life under the following painful circumstances: In the latter part of the day, Mrs. Hemmaway saw from the house her little son, who was skating on the river, fall through the ice. She immediately apprised her husband, who running to the spot, plunged in, and succeeded in throwing him ashore on the ice. The poor fellow, greatly fatigued, sunk and was drowned himself. He was about thirty-eight years of age, a worthy and upright citizen, greatly respected, and whose untimely death while in the performance of his duty as a father, and a devoted citizen, will throw a gloom upon the whole town. He leaves an amiable wife, and two small children to mourn his loss.

Benj. B. Anderson, on Tuesday morning, fell from the deck to the lower hold of a vessel lying at the wharf, and was so severely injured that he died yesterday. He was a young man, a sailmaker by profession, and belonged to Waldoboro', we think, though he had near relatives in Roxbury, Mass. (Ibid.)

A young man of this city, named James Adams, with a serious accident, by letting himself fall from a chisel, the corner of which wounded the artery behind the knee. The hemorrhage was restrained by a firm compress, and Dr. Lord called, who cut down upon the artery in the usual manner, and secured it by ligatures. The young man is progressing very favorably, with a prospect of speedy recovery. (State of Maine.)

**PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.** The following is the material portion of the President's proclamation against contemplated military expeditions to Nicaragua:—

"Whereas information has been received by me that



**FOR CALIFORNIA!**

**FOR CALIFORNIA!**

[illegible]



VOL.

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# MAY

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"Our Home"

The farmer equally of producing and consuming. Winter comes and when the successful farmer acquires skill, he makes both a number of failures, are not of any particular value, are not of our following the principle and the less more gain—even if we have the body, where we use a name a fool be ultimately.

A few years the winter by cattle, to as got choked over to them, a sharp sh pieces were some long, of course so then, "whoa half the neighbor. Now at time in cattle occurrences either up the cost down, \$ for interest a. Now for the per day save then, "whoa (and that you be five cents pay that bill day of there need not be your stock.

of a valuable down the sav ble of mind stock are ch cause. If all economy of we give it up in this way a to cook them also be mixed hay, which them to cattle.

We will add ing corn to p good economy get fine for well and as re. In this way y chickens. W out to hens, g a shoal troug four inches w dry. It all d them good. I like to have me if fed dur tute for grain. The c its chemical ruta hagas and all of which upon, if they

**A NEW**

We have be trees with car call it,) dissol ions. This is while it invig mosses, scale i seen a new wa Medford. In Farmer of the following wit years:

"Procure soapstone, sif choose, mix with soap-s lime, and, if tint, stir in a this mixture y trees in the c will prevent ( does not.) and healthy a."

Mr. D. W. I merely as a c some of the b says he, is d rience. Lime of the bark, b with the bark ents a hand rubbed off."

Probably so that recommen is advantageous would be well procured. W dust would be

To TELL Go tain that your in water—if